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A Message From Your President

By Susan Patey-LeDrew, P.Biol.

ASPB President Susan Patey-LeDrew, P.Biol. Photo Credit Laurie Hamilton, P.Biol.

When I became a member of the ASPB in 2006, it was mainly for the recognition my employer placed on the designation, and to further establish myself as a biology practitioner during the early stages of building my career. Not being one who was overly comfortable at networking, I decided to volunteer with the Conference committee and then the Calgary Professional Development Committee. Since then, I have been inspired and motivated by all of the dedicated volunteers with which I have had the pleasure to work.

Since the AGM in April 2012, the ASPB has been quite active. The ASPB Board of Directors has welcomed Karoliina Munter as the President Elect and three new directors, Chris Clement, Bruce Greenfield and Shaun Toner. I am thrilled to have the continued dedication, skill and often mentorship of the returning Board members: Gary Ash, Gerry Haekel, Laurie Hamilton, Darrel Jobson, Charles Macmichael, and Dave McInnes. Again, I'd like to thank exiting Board members Henri DePennart, Glenda Fratton, Kashif Sheikh, Tara Caseley, and Markus Thormann for their time and the opportunity to work with them in the past year.

Many thanks to the volunteers who provided two very successful workshops: Intro to Plant ID and D*emist*ifying Wetlands in Alberta. The ever popular "Intro to Plant ID" one day workshop, designed for people with little to no plant identification knowledge, and for those needing a refresher, was another sold out event! Feedback from participants was very positive, with many feeling that the keying covered in the workshop was very helpful, and some felt it will help them get back into plants again.

D*emist*ifying Wetlands in Alberta was also a sold out, one day workshop with a long waiting list. ASPB invited leading industry and government professionals from the forefront of wetland management in Alberta to share their expertise in a workshop designed to promote communication among environmental professionals. Attended by both ASPB members and non-members, participants felt the workshop offered a great selection of topics and speakers, and requested that this would be an annual event, alternating in Edmonton and Calgary.

The Practice Review Committee has been working on the Continuing Competency Program and has developed a PowerPoint presentation to explain how to complete the documentation required for the program. In addition, the committee is looking to put this information on a member's specific home page on the intranet, so that each member will be able to track their professional development hours online, so when it is time to submit the information, it can be done with the click of a button. More information will be provided in the e-bulletin when the program is complete.

In June, we contracted Jen Sipkens to the ASPB team as an Executive Assistant to the Board. Adding Jen will help the Board and Committees keep up with growth of the Society, and to cope with the chronic issue of volunteer burnout. Jen will be focussing her efforts on discrete projects under direction from the Board, such as assisting with the conference, implementing surveys to determine the needs of the membership, assessing membership specialties and developing practice areas, and assisting with the de-centralization of the ASPB

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BIOS is published for the enjoyment and benefit of the members of the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists, and for those interested in the field of professional biology. Articles or comments are welcomed and should be sent to the editor, Linda Zimmerling at lindazim@shaw.ca.

President's Message continued

events, so that members outside of Calgary and Edmonton can host professional development and networking opportunities.

Our Executive Director, Ross, will continue to maintain relationships with educational institutions, PRO6, JEPP and POARA. He will also maintain the relationship with the Calgary Zoo and working with the mentorship program. He will continue overseeing U of C Scholarship vote, developing membership benefits, and assisting the preparation of board meetings.

The ASPB is partnering with the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum to bring the 10th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference to Red Deer in February 2013. This partnership allows the ASPB to deliver an even larger conference with a more diverse audience to the membership. The theme is "Engaging People in Conservation" and full details are available on the conference website at www.pcesc.ca and in this issue of BIOS.
Goals for the year include:

- Having a successful conference in 2013 and planning for ASPB's 2014 conference
- Identifying gaps in internal organization and taking steps to improve (of Board and committees; of documentation; of processes)
- Engaging more members in ASPB
- Providing more notice and diversification for professional development opportunities, along with engaging members in regions outside Calgary and Edmonton
- Revisiting the Strategic Plan and identifying the tasks that are strategic for the organization and those that are more characteristic of a Business Plan.

I encourage you to volunteer with the organization and get to know more biologists in your province and help us propel the ASPB forward. If you have any questions, comments or inquiries about volunteering, please send them to pbiol@aspb.ab.ca.

Executive Director's Report Fall 2012

By P. Ross Bradford

University Scholarship Funding
All three universities which receive ASPB scholarship funds have requested top up funds for the 2012-13 awards as a result of the continuing global economic conditions.

Robin Leech
Had a falling accident in mid- April and broke his back. He is now home, and is restricted to a wheel chair.

Member benefit plans
Affiliations with member discount programs are being investigated and negotiated. The intent is to offer ASPB members the advantages of lower fees, enhanced programs and ease of selection. These programs also usually provide the ASPB with a source of support.

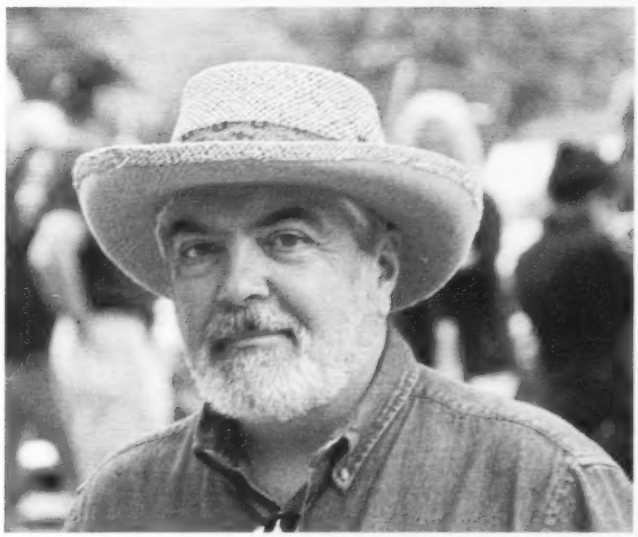
Auto and home insurance, hotel discounts, auto rental, airport parking, health insurance plans, etc. are being investigated.

Calgary Zoo
Enhanced exposure for the ASPB at the Calgary Zoo is planned for October 2012.

University Career Fairs
The ASPB will attend with a new display.

ASPB Remembers: Roger Creasey, P.Biol. (1953-2012)

By Nick Roe and Luigi Morgantini



Together we mourn the loss of Roger Creasey, a Past President of the ASPB

On September 16, 2012, Roger Creasey died suddenly while visiting his cottage on Mayne Island, BC. Roger had been a member of the ASPB since 1978, Director (1993-95), Vice-President (1995-97), and President (1997-99). He chaired the 1994 and 2000 National Conferences on Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management, and helped organize ASPB Conferences in 1995 (Professional Roles) and 1996 (Access Management).

Roger graduated from the University of Calgary (B.Sc., M.Sc.), where he studied the regulatory and public policy areas of cumulative effects, and was one of the compilers of the Cumulative Effects Practitioners Guide for the CEAA, and the Cumulative Effects Assessment policy used in the Alberta EIA process. He chaired two national conferences on CEA and CEM that produced two books of conference proceedings. He published and presented more than 40 papers – a remarkable achievement for a non-academic — and during his career had been a member of at least 20 committees and task forces related to environmental issues management.

He worked in the field of energy and environment for 36 years. His key positions were as Section Head of Environment at the Energy Resources Conservation Board (1980-2001), and then as Principal Ecologist and Corporate Manager, Ecosystem and Environment, for Shell Canada Limited (2001-09). He held an adjunct teaching appointment with the Faculty of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary, and co-taught EA and CEA courses in Calgary, Latin America and Southeast Asia. He supervised a series of graduate students in cumulative effects, wildlife and ecosystem management, species at risk, management systems and corporate social responsibility. He participated in multi-stakeholder groups, worked with First Nations, and hundreds of public consultation activities as a regulator and proponent.

Roger was a dedicated and hardworking innovator, emphasizing landscape/biodiversity management to promote a "big picture" approach to development, involving minimization of footprint. He understood the need for research to support this approach and for Shell in Alberta he managed the Montane Elk and the West-Central Caribou/Wolf programs in collaboration with Canadian and U.S. universities.

The range of his awards is a testament to his contributions, among them the Emerald Award for Corporate and Institutional Leadership (2005), Alberta Prairie Conservation Award for conserving natural grasslands (1993); Premier's Award of Excellence (2000), Alberta Environment Award for Environmental Excellence as a member of the inter-agency team designing the Athabasca Oil Sands Regional Sustainable Development Strategy, and IAIA's Outstanding Contribution Award (2003). He was a former member and Director of the Western and Northern Canada Affiliate of the IAIA, Co-Editor of the IAIA Newsletter, past-director of the Miistakis Institute and past member of the Alberta Caribou Governance Board.

Roger was born in Calgary. After spending his childhood and nearly all of his academic and professional life there, for the past three years he and his wife Mona had been living in Sidney, BC. In 2009, he formed a consulting company, TerrainFX, and at the time of his death he was active on a number of projects in Canada and the USA. With his passing, professional biology has lost one of the most prominent, pioneering practitioners of impact assessment and environmental management in Canadian history.

A Memorial Service will take place in Calgary on October 10 at 3:00 pm.

Eden Brook Memorial Gardens are taking care of the arrangements, and our farewell will be held at their Rocky Mountain Reception Lounge & Terrace. Exact details of the location with driving directions can be found on their website: http://edenbrookcemetery.ca/

ASPB 2013 Conference

Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference

Red Deer, Alberta | February 19 – 22, 2013

Engaging People in Conservation

The ASPB is partnering with the Alberta Prairie Conservation Forum to deliver the conference in 2013. "Engaging People in Conservation" will explore methods of engaging all sectors of government, industry and public in research, conservation and stewardship. It will examine how to increase society's understanding and support of prairie conservation and endangered species, as well as how to balance native prairie conservation with all types of land uses. The conference will look beyond the science to the socio-economic factors in prairie conservation and apply these to decision making.

This will be the 10th Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference, and is held once every three years in a different prairie province. It is a forum to discuss the latest issues, information, research and trends in prairie landscape and species conservation.

Dates: February 19 – 22, 2013
Location: Sheraton Red Deer
Early Bird Registration Fees (till December 21, 2012)

Full Registration - $245
One Day (Wed or Thurs) Registration - $170
Friday Registration - $80
Student Full Registration - $160

There is a block of rooms held for conference delegates at the rate of $129 at the Sheraton. A personalized page has been created for us – please check out the link at: https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/PCESC2013

Full conference details can be found at www.pcesc.ca .

CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS
Deadline: October 29, 2012

The PCF and ASPB invite you to submit abstracts that describe recent challenges and new approaches to research, conservation and stewardship in the prairies. The PCESC aims to address the science and socio-economic factors in prairie conservation and apply these to decision making. Share your successes and challenges, facilitate new ideas, and contribute to the discussion! Contributions could focus on, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Socio-economic (e.g., ecological goods and services, stakeholder engagement, etc.)
2. Biophysical (e.g., land, plant communities, species at risk, water, wetlands, etc.)
3. Land Management and Restoration (e.g., easements, reclamation, etc.)
4. Industrial/Agricultural Perspectives (e.g., ranching, oil and gas, wind, etc.)
5. Policy, Current Regulations and Professional Practice
6. Land Use/Regional planning

The 2013 PCESC Conference Committee welcomes presentation and poster abstract submissions for review. Acceptance of the contributions will be based on originality of the work, relevance to the conference topic(s), and overall submission quality.
An abstract should follow the format outlined below and be submitted electronically to 10th.pcesc@gmail.com by October 29, 2012 for review. If you do not receive email confirmation that your submission was received within five business days, please contact the abstract coordinator at ManageWise at (780) 434-5765.

Please note that the cost of preparing the presentations and attending the conference will be at the applicant's expense.

Abstract Format for the 10th PCESC

Title: Capitalize the first letter of each word except prepositions, articles, and species names. Species names should be spelled out at first use. Italicize scientific names of organisms.
Authors: Author's names will appear in ALL CAPITAL letters, using first initial(s) and full last name.
Affiliations: Each author should be listed by institution, department, division and country. Please state if the author/s are Professional Biologists (P.Biol. or R.P.Biol)
Abstract Text: Abstracts should be submitted as Microsoft Word documents. Each abstract may contain up to a maximum of 300 words, including title, author's name and affiliations, and the abstract text. Use 12 point Times New Roman font for text and symbol font for special and scientific characters.
Presentation Talk or Poster: Identify whether your abstract for consideration is for a talk (approx. 15 minutes) or poster. If you are submitting an abstract for a presentation, please also indicate if you'd be willing to present your topic as a poster should the Program Subcommittee be unable to accommodate your topic. Proceedings of the conference will be published in 2013. Please indicate if you plan to submit a manuscript about your presentation (talks and posters). They will be due at the start of the conference, 19 February, 2013.
Justification for 10th PCESC: Please explain how the proposed presentation or poster will complement your chosen conference topic.

Engaging People in Conservation - Sponsorship Opportunities

If you or your company would like to sponsor the 10th PCESC, there are sponsorship opportunities available. Sponsorship will put your organization's name in front of a key audience of influencers and decision-makers in western Canada. If you wish to target a specific area of the conference with your sponsorship, there are naming opportunities available that will provide you the opportunity to address the delegates. These are available on a first come, first served basis, so please contact Don or Jennifer for more details.

Don Watson
Chair, Sponsorship Committee
Phone: 403.331.0532
Email: watsondon@shaw.ca

Jennifer Sipkens
Phone: 403.283.7679
Email: jsipkens@telus.net

Key Sponsorship Levels and Amount	Some of the Key Benefits
Platinum - $10,000	• Officially open the convention • Opportunity to bring brief greetings at Welcoming Reception • Verbal recognition each day at the conference • Large logo placement • Up to 4 complimentary registrations (including banquet tickets)
Gold - $5,000	• Verbal recognition each day at the conference • Medium logo placement • Up to 2 complimentary registrations (including banquet tickets)
Silver - $2,500	• Verbal recognition each day at the conference • Printed recognition • 1 complimentary registration (including a banquet ticket)
Tuesday Reception – 2 sponsors at $2,000 each	• Verbal recognition at plenary session(s) prior to reception plus opportunity for a short address to attendees at reception • 1 complimentary registration (including a banquet ticket)
4 sponsors at $2,500 each	• Verbal recognition at plenary session(s) prior to banquet and at start of banquet • 1 complimentary registration (including two banquet tickets)
Lunches – 4 sponsors at $1,000 each	• Verbal recognition at plenary session(s) prior to reception and at start of lunch • Special logo placement at lunch • PowerPoint presentation to be shown during breaks and lunches • 1 complimentary day registration per lunch sponsorship
Refreshment breaks – 4 sponsors at $500 each	• Sign posted on refreshment tables listing refreshment break sponsors • Recognition on printed materials

Full details are available at
http://www.pcesc.ca/sponsors/sponsorship-levels.aspx.

ASPB Conference 2014 – Call for Volunteers

The ASPB is looking for volunteers to begin planning the 2014 conference!! We are looking for creative, enthusiastic and dedicated people to help set the direction of our 2014 conference. We will be connecting by conference call, so members in areas outside Calgary are encouraged to participate. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in conference planning and networking with fellow biologists. Time spent can also be used towards your continuing competency points – an added bonus!

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Jennifer Sipkens at jsipkens@telus.net.

ASPB 2012 Conference Summary

By Elise Savard, P.Biol. and Alison Beal, B.I.T.

The 2012 ASPB Conference "Exploring the Boreal Forest: Oil Sands in Alberta" was held at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Calgary on April 18 and 19, 2012. The focus of the conference was on issues relevant to the oil sands region that may be occurring in other parts of the boreal forest across Alberta, or elsewhere in Canada. Planning for the conference began in September 2011 and involved a hard working group of dedicated ASPB members. Presentations described recent challenges and new approaches to dealing with and managing the biological resources in the oil sands and/or boreal region. The presentations were divided into seven sessions:

ASPB 2012 Board Members & Committee Volunteers

- Session 1 – Panel *Discussion Forum*
- Session 2 – Wetlands
- Session 3 – Regulatory/Regional Planning
- Session 4 – Reclamation (Policy Oriented)
- Session 5 – Wildlife
- Session 6 – Reclamation (Operational)
- Session 7 – Cumulative Effects

The panel discussion provided a great opening to the conference providing multiple views on a variety of issues which carried through the entire conference. The wetland session provided an update on policies as well as the technological and academic initiatives taking place in the industry. Regulatory and regional planning topics highlighted the need for integrated planning, prioritizing reclamation, and defining terminology. The reclamation session highlighted that landscapes are complex and that there are gaps in our knowledge, but with ongoing innovative research and advancement these gaps are shrinking. The wildlife session provided a hint of some of the wildlife related considerations in the oil sands such as defining and understanding species habitat. Operational reclamation topics emphasized how biologists need to work with engineers up front and influence the process to favor reclaimed landscapes that included both aquatic and terrestrial components. The last session looked at

ASPB 2013 Conference Panel members. Session chaired by Derek Ebner, P.Biol.

ASPB Special Presentation by John Acorn, "The Nature Nut"

applying biodiversity models as part of regional land use planning and managing footprints in the oil sands through corporate partnerships. The conference closed leaving attendees with a taste of a complicated yet interesting area of Alberta – the boreal forest and the oil sands.

The dinner banquet was followed by a special presentation by guest speaker John Acorn, the "Nature Nut". Banquet attendees were treated to a presentation entitled "Counting Species: Not As Easy As It Seems". The ASPB Annual General Meeting was held the morning of the second day of the conference and was well attended by members.

Overall, the conference was well attended and successful, receiving positive feedback through discussions after the presentations and from the conference feedback forms. Conference attendees included delegates, presenters, sponsors, and committee volunteers with a mix of environmental consultants (65%), industry (24%), government (4%) and students (7%). ASPB awarded 2 students $250 each for their outstanding presentations. These awards are sponsored by Robin Leech, P.Biol.

The ASPB received very positive feedback for the sessions and the content of the material covered, attendees questions, and discussions that followed. It highlighted how broad of scope biologists are involved in and why the oil sands are so important in terms of understanding the potential impacts on the environment and ecosystems. Overall, the conference appeared to achieve the goals of providing opportunities to network, helping ASPB members fulfill their professional development requirements, and keeping members informed about the issues faced in the boreal region and the innovations being made in the oil sands industry.

Interview With a Biologist - Petr Komers, P.Biol.

By Ngaio Hotte, P.Biol.

Dr. Petr Komers' career as a wildlife ecologist and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) specialist has spanned both academia and applied science, and included projects in Kenya, Pakistan, Great Britain and Canada. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary, where he teaches wildlife ecology and supervises graduate students.

"I have always felt an undeniable urge to work with animals," Petr says. "I'm particularly drawn toward the large, charismatic megafauna; animals that I can connect with and whose language I can understand, and who can understand mine. Wolves, bison and moose are all fascinating to me."

Veterinary medicine was one of the career options available to Petr as a young man, but after volunteering in a clinic, he realized that the profession was too specialized for his broad interests.

"I wanted to learn about more than healing sick animals; to know about many species, how they live and how they interact," he recalls.

Having grown up in Switzerland, Petr decided to pursue his undergraduate degree in Bern, but felt that an education in German wouldn't be sufficient to succeed in the scientific world. For his graduate studies, he sought a position in an English-speaking country, and Canada had always held particular appeal because of its large expanse of nature.

He found an opportunity at the University of Alberta with Dr. David Boag, who became an important mentor to Petr. His Master's thesis focused on captive studies of magpies.

"[Dr. Boag] was really instrumental in my life," Petr says. "He was the person who was open enough to take me on as a student and to mentor me. Without him, I wouldn't be where I am today."

For his doctoral research, Petr was awarded a scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), which he used to develop a research project based out of the University of Saskatchewan that focused on the behavioural ecology of free ranging Wood Bison (*Bison bison athabascae*) at the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary in the Northwest Territories.

This project set a course for Petr to focus on ungulates for the duration of his professional life. His doctoral research earned him another NSERC scholarship to complete a two-year post-doctoral project at the University of Cambridge, studying the dwarf antelope ("dik-dik", or *Madoqua*

kirkii). Petr wanted to figure out why the species is monogamous, knowing that only approximately 5% of mammalian species exhibit monogamy.

His second post-doctoral project, financed by a fellowship from the Swiss Academy of Sciences, was based in Uppsala, Sweden, and examined the function of deer society, including the roles of older and younger males and the process of competition and mate choice. Petr discovered that older males are preferred by females and that females will suppress ovulation if a suitable male is unavailable.

Why is the dwarf antelope monogamous?

"The male and female dik-dik live together and produce offspring each year, but do not demonstrate paternal care, so monogamy doesn't produce clear benefits for their young," Petr explains.

What he found was that, like most monogamous mammals, dwarf antelope are essentially solitary. The male controls a female's range and prevents other males from entering. If the female is not controlled, she will wander out of this range, and the male will herd her back inside. This provides the female with an exclusive range, free of other females and males, and guarantees the male a permanent resource.

"Most monogamous mammals have a mechanism to enable males to control females," he says. "Paternal care, often cited as a reason for monogamy, actually appears to be only a by-product, and also occurs in polygynous species."

From academia to consulting

In the mid-1990s, after moving from one country to another in pursuit of his research projects, he decided to settle down in Alberta.

"As nice as grants and awards are, it was time for my family to settle down," Petr says.

They decided to settle in the Canadian west, where Petr had the opportunity to begin working as a consultant and apply his academic knowledge to the EIA process. He sees the development of his career towards EIA as complementary to his ungulate research.

Petr's transition to the consulting field was supported by his former supervisor, Duane Johnson, at AMEC. Though the two only worked together for a couple of years, Duane's influence on Petr was tremendous.

"[Duane] is a true leader," Petr describes. "He leads you in the direction that he needs you to go and that you want to go. The vast majority of managers are not leaders; very few people have that skill."

"The consultant life wasn't easy to start," he recalls. "Moving from academia to the 'real world' is challenging."

Petr explains: "The biggest difference in the approach to work is that in academia, you study something because it is interesting; in the applied world, you need to find a solution. You need to fix or manage an environmental problem within both budget and time constraints. You need to learn to do the best possible within the limits of time and budget. In academia, you simply do the best possible, even if it takes years."

But Petr also recognizes several advantages of applied projects.

He remembers finding many fascinating results as an academic, but struggling to put a practical spin on his research.

"People want to know: 'Why is this important? Why do we need to know this?' Often, the importance of knowledge for its own sake is very difficult to convey," he says.

Petr also appreciates seeing how his work makes a tangible difference in management decisions.

"In the applied world, we have a lot more influence over actual decisions," he says. "In the practice of biology, we as biologists are becoming more important in decision-making. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, very few biologists would have been invited to participate in decision-making with lawyers or politicians about management plans. Our current role in the decision process is very satisfying."

A 'growing' field

"When I first told my parents I was going into biology, they were horrified," he laughs. "They said: 'How are you going to make money?' The only job prospect they could see for me was in teaching, and few positions were available.

"In the 1970s and 1980s, environmental planning and impact assessment was in its infancy and the public at large knew nothing about it. Biologists were believed to be yahoos who were wandering by themselves into the woods to collect berries or something, with no real purpose. We are now part of the decision-making process."

As biologists become more prominent in the decision-making process, Petr sees that the importance of thorough methodologies for research and analysis is also growing.

"I think that there is definitely room for change and improvement in how we practice biology," he asserts. "We need to see ourselves more as the doctors of nature. We are trained to understand the functions of nature, and we have to be able to provide the evidence that supports our analyses. When we make a prediction or are asked to diagnose the 'patient' - a given landscape or piece of nature - we need to be able to support that diagnosis with numerical, objective evidence.

"We still rely too much on the so-called professional opinion, and I believe there is little room for this approach. We need to be more systematic, empirical and analytical about our predictions and conclusions. We also need to learn to critique each other without perceiving it as an attack. Scientists need to be able to subject themselves to peer review, not to be criticized, but to identify different points of view or hard questions that help them generate a defensible solution.

"I believe that we are heading in that direction," Petr says. "All science is becoming more rigorous, and our tools are becoming sharper."

"I have certainly seen improvements, particularly in the area of baseline data and analyses for EIA," he describes. "But there is still a great deal of room for improvement. Baseline information from EIAs is often used as a benchmark against which we can compare the results of future programs. The emphasis of the EIA process should not be to bend over backwards to prove no significant effects; it should be to develop a baseline that can be used for years to come."

Calgary Zoo and ASPB: Partners in Conservation Training

The future of many of the world's species and habitats lies in the hands of emerging conservationists. In partnership with Husky Energy, the Alberta Society of Professional Biologists (ASPB)

Breana Jones surveying. Photo credit Calgary Zoo

has been a long-time supporter of the Calgary Zoo's Conservation Research Fellowship program. This program provides new biologists with the valuable hands-on training and skills necessary for a career in wildlife conservation.

Peter Kydd - Photo credit Lea Randall, Calgary Zoo

Currently in its tenth year, the Conservation Research Fellowship is designed to aid in the professional development of recent Canadian graduates as they pursue careers in the field of conservation biology. Through the ten-month program, the Fellows gain important skills such as animal handling, survey techniques, testing of new technologies for breeding programs and data analysis on species such as black-tailed prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets, northern leopard frogs, mountain bluebirds, whooping cranes and burrowing owls.

Thanks to the support of ASPB, the Fellowship program has led recipients into several exciting roles with institutions around the world. These include being a member of the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine's first graduating class, conducting a species reintroduction study at the San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, a PhD program in evolutionary ecology at Queens University, a PhD program in critical habitat identification for protected species at University of Queensland (Australia), an MBA with a specialization in sustainability, environmental consulting, cattle nutrition health research, and roles with Parks Canada Agency and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

"The Conservation Research Fellowship gave me the opportunity to gain valuable research experience. It was really exciting to work on a variety of projects and to be a part of the conservation efforts for species at risk" – Natasha Lloyd, 2004 Fellowship recipient

ASPB Membership Survey

ASPB is developing an on-line survey as a means of better serving the membership, by focusing programs and services on what is important to the members. This information will be used to inform Board and committee decisions, as well as the development of the ASPB's long-term strategy.

The ASPB aims to have the survey ready in October 2012. Once it is ready, a special e-bulletin will be circulated with more details. The ASPB is working on ways to meet your needs and urges you to participate in the survey so that you have a say in the future direction of the ASPB.

ASPB in Universities

by Alison Beal, B.I.T. and Aynsley Shirriff, B.I.T.

The ASPB Communication Committee is looking to focus on student outreach through increasing ASPB's presence in the universities across Alberta. To start off, ASPB volunteers will be attending two career fairs, one at the University of Alberta on September 26, 2012 and the other at the University of Lethbridge on October 3, 2012. The committee is also exploring holding an information session at the University of Calgary this fall to increase awareness about the benefits of an ASPB membership and allow students to ask questions about the profession of biology. This will be a first step by the committee to reach out to students with the intent of growing the ASPB student membership. After all, today's students are the professional biologists of tomorrow.

Call-out for ASPB Volunteers

As the field season is drawing to a close the ASPB hopes that you will consider one of the many volunteer opportunities with ASPB to help fill your fall/winter schedule. Opportunities include participation on committees and initiatives, as well as representing ASPB at select events. If you are interested in volunteering with the ASPB, please contact Laurie at laurie@zanshinenvironmental.com to discuss which volunteer opportunities are most suitable for your time and interest.